

KAWAI

Digital Piano

CA550

Owner's Manual

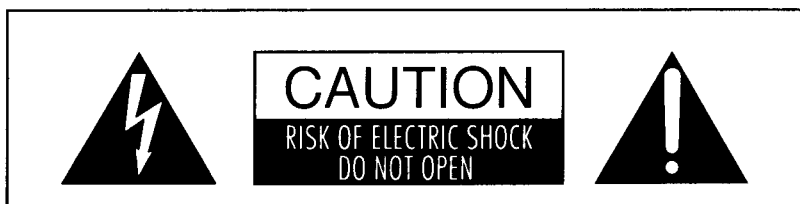


SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT! SAVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING - when using electric products, basic precautions should always be followed, including the following:

1. Read all the instructions before using the product.
2. To reduce the risk of injury, close supervision is necessary when a product is used near children.
3. Do not use this product near water—for example, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, or the like.
4. Do not touch the power plug with wet hands. There is a risk of electrical shock. Treat the power cord with care as well. Stepping on or tripping over it can break or short-circuit the wire inside.
5. This product should be used only with a stand that is recommended by the manufacturer.
6. This product, either alone or in combination with an amplifier and headphones or speakers, may be capable of producing sound levels that could cause permanent hearing loss. Do not operate for a long period of time at a high volume level or at a level that is uncomfortable. If you experience any hearing loss or ringing in the ears, you should consult an audiologist.
7. The product should be located so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation.
8. The product should be located away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, or other products that produce heat.
9. Keep the instrument away from electrical motors, neon signs, fluorescent light fixtures, and other sources of electrical noises.
10. The product should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the product.
11. This product may be equipped with a polarized line plug (one blade wider than the other). This is a safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug into the outlet, contact an electrician to replace your obsolete outlet. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the plug.
12. Always turn the power off when the instrument is not in use. The power supply cord of the product should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
13. Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through openings.
14. The product should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:
 - A. The power supply cord or the plug has been damaged.
 - B. Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the product.
 - C. The product has been exposed to rain.
 - D. The product does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance.
 - E. The product has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.
15. Do not attempt to service the product beyond that described in the user -maintenance instructions. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

**WARNING**

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS PRODUCT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

AVIS : RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE - NE PAS OUVRIR.

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK).
NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.



The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

CAUTION: TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK, MATCH WIDE BLADE OF PLUG TO WIDE SLOT, FULLY INSERT.

ATTENTION: POUR EVITER LES CHOCES ELECTRIQUES, INTRODUIRE LA LAME LA PLUS LARGE DE LA FICHE DANS LA BORNE CORRESPONDANTE DE LA PRISE ET POUSSER JUSQU'AU FOND.

Instruction for AC power cord (U.K.)

Do not plug either terminal of the power cord to the ground of the AC outlet on the wall.

FCC Information (U. S. A.)

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Canadian Radio Interference Regulations

This instrument has been certified to comply with the limits for a class B digital apparatus, pursuant to the Radio Interference Regulations, C.R.C., c. 1374.

This digital piano is for household use and is not intended for commercial use.

THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING A KAWAI DIGITAL PIANO!

The Kawai digital piano is a revolutionary new keyboard instrument that combines the latest in electronic advances with traditional craftsmanship inherited from Kawai's many years of experience in building fine pianos. Its keyboard provides the touch response and full dynamic range required for a superb performance on the piano, harpsichord, organ, and other instruments. In addition, the CA piano is equipped with reverb and a digital effect processor for an even fuller sound. Industry-Standard MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) jacks are included which allow you to play other electronic instruments at the same time—opening a whole new world of musical possibilities.

This Owner's Manual contains valuable information that will help you make full use of this instrument's many capabilities.

There are two main sections in the manual. One is the Tutorial section and the other is a Reference section. The tutorial section explains the basic features of the CA piano. Read this section first if this is your first digital piano. The reference section describes the operation and uses of each of the panel components—buttons, sliders, and jacks. If you are familiar with digital pianos, you may want to start with this section. Please read all sections carefully and keep this manual handy for further reference.

CA550 Digital Piano

Tutorial Section

Basic Operations

p. 6

This section explains step by step the setup and operation procedures needed to begin playing your CA piano.

Using the Recorder

p. 13

This section will show you how to use the Recorder.
Recording and playing back a song, recording multiple songs, and recording on two separate tracks.

Using MIDI

p. 19

This is an introduction for the beginner to the world of MIDI.
You will learn the basics of MIDI and MIDI applications using the CA piano and another MIDI device.

Playing with the Concert Magic

p. 30

With Kawai's unique feature "Concert Magic" anyone can sit at the CA piano and play real music.



1. BASIC OPERATIONS

SETTING UP THE PIANO

The first thing you'll need to do before playing the piano is to set up the instrument.

ASSEMBLING THE STAND

First, you need to assemble the stand unit. Assemble the stand following the instructions that came in the package with the stand.

SUPPLYING AC POWER

The CA piano is equipped with stereo speakers and an amplifier. You do not need any other equipment to play your piano. You can enjoy the CA piano wherever AC power is available. Simply connect the power cable that comes with the CA piano to an AC outlet.

Connect the AC power cable to the piano's power jack and the other end of the cable to the AC outlet on the wall.

USING THE HEADPHONES

For private performances you may want to use the headphones. The speakers will be turned off automatically when the headphones are plugged in, and the CA piano will only be heard through the headphones. The CA piano has two headphones jacks.

PLAYING THE PIANO



Power Switch



Turning on the power.

You will find the POWER SWITCH at the right end of the front panel. Press this button to turn on the power. Pressing it again will turn off the power.

Adjust the volume level.

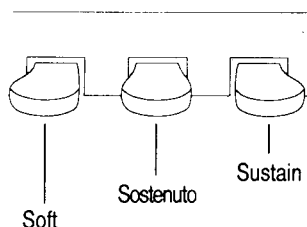
The VOLUME SLIDER controls the volume level of the speakers and the headphones. Use this slider to set the volume to a comfortable listening level.

Now try playing the keyboard.

You will hear the CA's main piano sound.

The CA piano responds just like a real acoustic piano when you play it. It produces a louder sound when you play hard and a softer sound when

you play soft. The volume level changes in relation to how fast the keys are pressed. This system is called “**touch sensitivity**” on an electronic musical instrument. The initial touch sensitivity setting has been adjusted to the standard of an acoustic piano. You can however, select a different type of touch sensitivity on the CA piano if you are not comfortable with the standard setting. For more detail, please read “Selecting the touch sensitivity” on page 36.



USING THE PEDALS

The CA piano has three pedals—just like a grand piano. They are Sustain, Soft and Sostenuto.

PLAYING WITH MORE SOUNDS

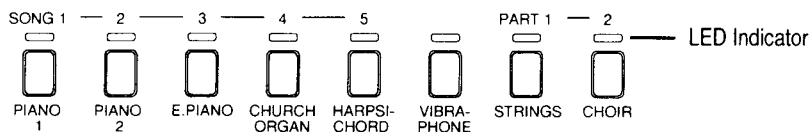
You have already heard the CA's main piano sound. The CA piano has seven more different sounds, not only different types of piano sounds but different instruments as well.

The different instrument sounds built into CA piano are called “**preset sounds**”.

All of the preset sounds have been created through advanced digital sampling technology achieving as natural and realistic sound as possible. Let's try some of the preset sounds.

SELECTING ANOTHER PRESET SOUND

Press the **SOUND SELECT** button above the name of the instrument you would like to listen to. When the button is pressed, the LED indicator above it will be turned on to indicate that this sound is selected.





USING DEMO FUNCTION

The CA piano has eight demo songs built-in, each of which presents a musical piece to introduce the different preset sounds.

Press the DEMO button and the demo for PIANO 1 will start. If you would like to listen to another preset sound demo, just press the desired SOUND SELECT button while the demo is playing. When you press the button, the demo will play another piece for the newly selected sound.

DUAL

Another feature of the CA piano is the ability to layer two preset sounds together to create a more complex sound. For example, piano layered with strings, electric piano with choir sound, and so on.

To layer two sounds, **press the SOUND SELECT buttons for both sounds simultaneously**. The LED indicators for each will be turned on to indicate the two sounds you have chosen.

You can adjust the volume balance between the two sounds. **Use the DUAL BALANCE slider to adjust the balance**. Move the slider to the right to increase the volume of the rightmost preset sound and decrease the volume of the leftmost preset sound. The balance changes in the opposite way when the slider is moved to the left.

ABOUT POLYPHONY

The CA piano is capable of playing up to 64 notes simultaneously (64-note polyphony). When playing in dual mode or when playing the stereo piano sound, the polyphony will be reduced by half since the piano has to produce two sounds for each note.

ADDING THE EFFECTS

You might have noticed that when you select some of the preset sounds, the LED indicator for the EFFECTS is turned on. The reason for this is some of the preset sounds are set up with an effect on as their initial setting.

Adding an effect to the sound enhances tonal quality and improves acoustical realism. The CA piano is provided with two separate groups of effects. The first is reverb and the second contains chorus, delay and tremolo.

REVERB

Reverb adds reverberation to the sound, simulating the acoustic environment of a recital room, stage, or concert hall. There are five types of reverb available. They are Room, Stage, Hall, 3D Room and 3D Hall (listed in order of reverberation amount).

CHORUS

Chorus is an effect that simulates the rich character of a vocal choir or string ensemble, by layering a slightly detuned version of the sound over the original to enrich it.

DELAY

Delay is an effect that adds echoes to the sound. There are three types of delay available (delay 1 - 3), each of which has a different length of delay between the echoes.

TREMOLO

This is a vibrato type effect.



TO ADD REVERB

Press the REVERB button. The LED indicator will be turned on to indicate that reverb is in use. **To change the reverb type, use the VALUE buttons while holding down the REVERB button.** The LED display shows an abbreviation.





TO ADD OTHER EFFECTS

Press the EFFECTS button. The LED indicator will be turned on to indicate that the effect is in use. **To change the effect type, use the VALUE buttons while holding down the EFFECTS button.** The LED display shows an abbreviation.



To turn off the reverb or effects, press the REVERB or EFFECTS button again.

Any changes you make to the reverb and the effects are stored with the preset sound in memory as long as the power is on. When you reselect a sound, your chosen reverb and effect settings will be recalled along with the preset sound.

When the power is turned off the effects will be reset to the factory settings.

USING THE METRONOME

Rhythm is one of the most important elements when learning music. It is important to practice playing the piano in the right tempo and with a steady rhythm. The CA piano's metronome is a tool that helps you to achieve this by providing a steady beat for you play along with.



STARTING THE METRONOME

Press the TEMPO button. You will see the LED indicator turn on and hear the metronome begin counting with a steady beat. The LED display shows the tempo in beats per minute

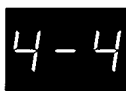
To change the tempo, use the VALUE buttons while holding down the TEMPO button to increase or decrease the tempo within the range of 20 - 300 beats per minute. (40-600 BPM with 6/8).

To stop the metronome, press the TEMPO button again.

CHANGING THE TIME SIGNATURE

You probably noticed that there are two types of clicks and the louder one comes every fourth beat. The metronome is capable of giving you a down beat to indicate the beginning of the measure. You are now hearing a 4-beat or 4/4 time signature.

You can select different a time signature if you want to out of the five available with the CA piano—1/4, 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 and 6/8.



To change the time signature, use the BEAT button.

Press the BEAT button. You will see the LED indicator turn on and hear the metronome begin counting.

Use the VALUE buttons while holding down the BEAT button to select your desired time signature. You will see the signature currently selected in the LED display as long as the TEMPO button is held down.

To stop the metronome, press the BEAT button again.

You can use either the TEMPO or BEAT button to turn the metronome on and off. Choose the appropriate button depending on whether you're adjusting the tempo or changing the time signature.

ADJUSTING THE METRONOME VOLUME

The volume level of metronome can be adjusted to any level you like independent of the main volume.

Press the TEMPO and BEAT buttons simultaneously. The LED displays the volume level of the metronome in numbers from 1 (soft) to 10 (loud). The factory preset is 7.

Use the VALUE buttons to change value while holding down the TEMPO and BEAT buttons.

NEXT STEP TO MAKE

So far, you have learned the basic operations and terms needed to become familiar with the CA piano. There are, however, some other functions that will help you to make full use of the CA piano's many capabilities. You may continue on from here, or skip ahead to the chapters you are interested in.

If you would like to learn more about the recorder, go to chapter 2. **“Using the Recorder”** page 13.

If you are interested in MIDI and how to use your piano with other digital musical instruments, go to chapter 3. **“Using MIDI”** page 19.

If you would like to learn about Concert Magic, go to chapter 4. **“Concert Magic”** page 30.

If you would like to learn more about functions and features such as tuning and transpose for example, you will find detailed information in chapter 1. **“Function Buttons”** of the Reference Section, page 37.

2. USING THE RECORDER

The CA piano's recorder records your playing much like a tape recorder, and it is just as easy to use. The CA piano records a song as digital data instead of audio data and stores the song inside the instrument. Because the song is stored as digital information you can modify the song when you play it back. You can, for example, adjust the tempo without changing the pitch or use a different effect setting from one you have recorded. Once you understand the recorder, you will find it to be a useful tool for both practicing and playing the piano.

RECORDING A SONG



Press the REC button when you are ready to record. The LED indicator will start flashing telling you that the piano is ready to record.

Now play some music on the piano. The recorder will automatically start recording with the first note you play.



Press the PLAY/STOP button when you're finished recording. The CA piano will stop recording and the LED display will flash momentarily while the song is saved to memory.

If you make a mistake, you can record your piece again. Just repeat the same procedure. The second recording will completely erase the first one.

PLAYING BACK A SONG



Press the PLAY/STOP button to play back the song you have just recorded.

Press the PLAY/STOP button again to stop.

Now, you are familiar with the basic recording procedure on the CA piano. For most recording purposes this may be all you need. The CA piano however, is equipped with other more powerful and flexible features that can be used to record and play back your performances. Continue on to learn more about the full capabilities of the recorder.

BASICS OF THE RECORDER

Let's take a brief look at the recorder's features.

TWO-TRACK FIVE-SONG RECORDER

The CA piano's recorder is a **2-track 5-song recorder**. This means you can record up to five different songs, store them in memory, and play them back as you like.

Each song has two separate tracks called "**Parts**" that can be recorded separately. This lets you record for example, the left hand part first on one track, then record the right hand on the other track while listening to the first track.

When you record or play back a song, you can select which part (track) of which song you are going to record or play back. When you are recording, selecting the same part again to record will erase any previous recordings on that part. Because of this it's important to remember; when recording both parts separately, after recording the first part be sure to select the second part to record, otherwise you will end up recording over the first part of the song.

INFORMATION TO RECORD

The CA piano records the following information.

Note information

Sound selection

Dual settings . . Set the dual balance as desired before you start recording. Balance settings made before you start recording will be used by the recorder. Any changes made during the recording will be ignored by the recorder.

Transpose When you record in a different key using the transpose function, the CA piano will record the notes transposed you hear, not the notes as you play with the keyboard.

RECORDING CAPACITY

The total recording capacity is about 5,000 notes. Pressing any buttons or pedals is counted as one note.

When the recorder reaches its maximum capacity, the CA piano will stop recording at that point.

RECORDER AND METRONOME

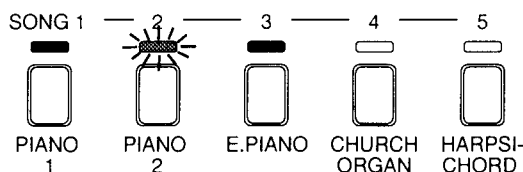
When playing back a song with the metronome turned on, the metronome always restarts with the down beat.

RECORDING MORE THAN ONE SONG

The CA piano is capable of recording up to five different songs. Let's try recording a second song.

If you followed the procedure in the previous section you have already recorded Song 1, so now let's record Song 2.

To select the song number, use the **SOUND SELECT** buttons with the song numbers printed above them—PIANO 1, PIANO 2, E. PIANO, CHURCH ORGAN and HARPSICHORD. **Press the PIANO 2 Button to select Song 2 while holding down the REC button.** The LED indicator above PIANO 2 will begin to flash when the REC button is pressed.



When you are ready to record, just start playing the keyboard. The CA piano will start recording automatically with the first note you play.

When you are finished recording, press the PLAY/STOP button.

Now let's play back the song that you have just recorded.

Hold down the PLAY/STOP button to see which song is selected for play back. You will see the LED indicator for PIANO 2 start flashing. This means that Song 2 is going to be played back. **Releasing the PLAY/STOP button will start play back.**

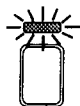
If you would like to listen to a different song, select your desired song number using the SOUND SELECT buttons while holding down the PLAY/STOP button and then release the buttons to start play back. The LED indicator for the selected song will flash when holding down the PLAY/STOP button

SONG STATUS AND LED INDICATOR

You have probably noticed that some of the LED indicators are flashing, some are turned on, and some are turned off. The LED indicates the status of recording and play back as shown below.



The LED that is on indicates that the song or part has already been recorded.



The flashing LED indicates that the song or part is selected to record or play back.



The LED that is off indicates that the song or part is empty.

If you have recorded more than one song, you can check the song status, by pressing the REC or PLAY/STOP button.

RECORDING THE TRACKS SEPARATELY

Now let's record two tracks separately.

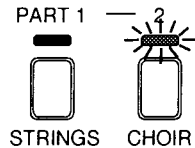
First, you select the desired track (part) to record. After recording the first part, select the other track and record your second part.

Remember, the LED indicators tell you whether a song or part is recorded or not.

To select a part to record, use the SOUND SELECT buttons with the part numbers printed above them—STRINGS and CHOIR. Press the STRINGS button to select part 1 for example, while holding down the REC button. You will see the LED indicator for part 1 (STRINGS button) begin flashing when the REC button is pressed.

Record the first part just the same as in the previous section and press the PLAY/STOP button when you're finished recording.

Now select Part 2 by pressing the CHOIR button while holding down the REC button. You will see the LED indicator for part 1 (STRINGS button) is turned on and the indicator for part 2 (CHOIR button) is flashing. This indicates that Part 1 has been recorded and Part 2 is ready to record.



If you want to start recording the second part from the beginning of the song, **just play the keyboard.** You will hear the first part playing back while you record the second part.

If you would like to play back the first part and then start recording the second part from a certain point later in the song, press the PLAY/STOP button instead of playing the keyboard to start playback of the first part and then begin recording the second part from any point you like.

When you are finished recording, press the START/STOP button again.

Hold down the PLAY/STOP button and look at the Part buttons. The LED indicators for both parts will be on, indicating that you have successfully recorded two tracks. Press the PLAY/STOP button to listen to what you have recorded. You should hear both parts.

Both parts will automatically be set to play back. If you do not hear both parts playing, you may have made a mistake when recording.

If your song is not playing back properly, carefully reread the previous section to make sure you're recording properly. You can use the LED indicators (see Song Status and LED indicator section) to help determine if you have a problem.

Here are some basic things to check for:

- 1) If you only hear the second part, you may have accidentally recorded over the first part. In this case, just rerecord the first part you played after selecting the “empty” part to record (in this case it will probably be part 2).
- 2) Did you record one of the parts in a different song? In this case record the missing part in the appropriate song.

ERASING UNNECESSARY SONG DATA

At some point you may want to erase a song. If you have filled up the memory of the recorder you can erase an old song to make room for a new one or maybe you're tired of listening to a particular song. In either case, the CA piano provides an easy way to erase one or all of the songs and parts.

To erase a specific song or part, first hold down both the REC and PLAY/STOP button. The LED indicators will display which songs have been recorded. **Select the desired song or part to erase by pressing the appropriate SOUND SELECT buttons while continuing to hold down both the REC and the PLAY/STOP button.** On releasing both the REC and PLAY/STOP button, the CA piano will erase from memory the song or part you have chosen.

The LED indicator for the erased song or Part will be turned off indicating there is no longer anything recorded there.

ERASING ALL DATA

To erase everything, all songs and parts at once, first turn the power off and then turn it back on again while holding down both the REC and PLAY/STOP button. The entire memory of the recorder will be erased.

The CA piano's built-in recorder is easy to use and is perfect for practice and basic recording needs. For those individuals interested in using this instrument for more complex digital recordings, the CA piano can be connected to an external MIDI sequencer or a personal computer. Please read chapter **3. Using MIDI** to learn about the CA piano's MIDI and Multi-timbral capabilities.



3. USING MIDI

In this chapter, you will learn how you can create music by connecting the CA piano to an external MIDI device. We will be using Kawai's Digital Accompaniment Center ACR-20 for this purpose. The ACR-20 is a 16-channel/16 track (part) digital sequencer (recorder) that features a General MIDI sound module with 226 sounds and 100 auto-accompaniment styles built in. All of which can be controlled by the CA piano when they are connected together.

Kawai has another instrument called the DRP-10, which has the same GM sound module and the recording capability of the ACR-20. The DRP-10, however, is not equipped with the auto-accompaniment styles. If you do not need the auto-accompaniment function, the DRP-10 may be perfect for your needs.

The CA piano is also compatible with MIDI devices from other manufacturers or can be used with sequencing software on a personal computer.

NOTE

All of the products mentioned above are optional and can be purchased separately. Visit your local music store to find out what products are available.

UNDERSTANDING MIDI

WHAT IS MIDI?

The letters MIDI stand for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, an international standard for connecting MIDI equipped synthesizers, drum machines, and other electronic instruments so that they can exchange data. Personal computers can also be equipped for MIDI communication. Electronic instruments equipped with MIDI can transmit and receive performance data such as, notes, what sound to play, pedal information, volume, etc. This data can be recorded with a device like a sequencer or a computer.

MIDI JACKS

Instruments equipped with MIDI have usually three jacks for exchanging data: **IN**, **OUT**, and **THRU**. (Some instruments have only IN and OUT.) These jacks are used to connect MIDI devices to one another using a special cable.

Each terminal has a different function.

IN : For receiving MIDI data from another MIDI instrument.

OUT : For sending MIDI data to another MIDI instrument.

THRU : For passing along MIDI data received to another MIDI instrument without processing.

Depending on how they are connected, instruments are grouped as those which receive data (producing sound when data is received from a connected instrument), those which send data (to instruments to which they are connected), and those which both send and receive data.

MIDI CHANNEL

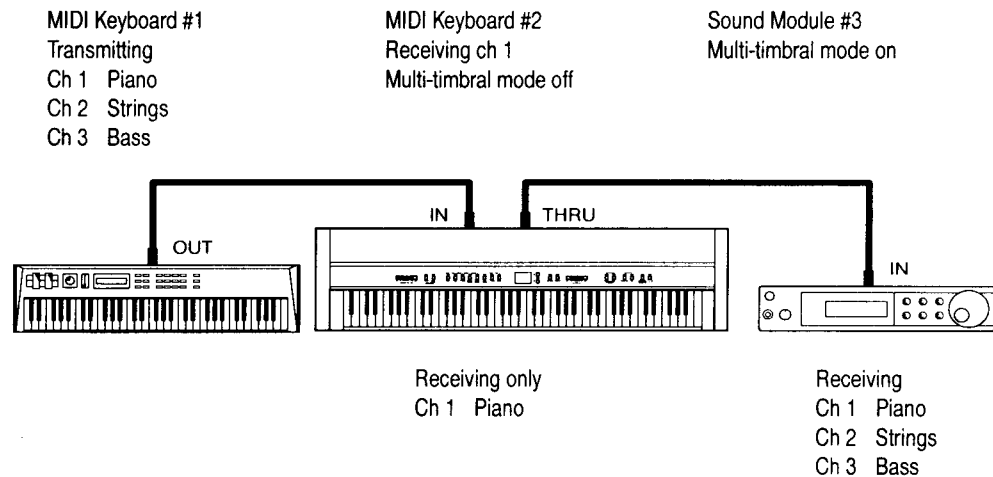
MIDI uses what are known as “**channels**” as a means of routing MIDI data intended to play a specified instrument or specified part. By channelizing MIDI data, you can control multiple parts in multiple instruments with a single cable.

There are two aspects of channels, one for **receiving** and one for **sending**. The MIDI channel of the receiving instrument must be matched with the MIDI channel of the transmitting instrument. The idea is just like television or radio. If you have a desired station to watch or listen to, you need to tune in to the right channel. When a transmitting instrument uses channel 1, the receiving instrument must be set to use channel 1 also. The CA piano lets you set the same channel number for both Transmit and receive. There are 16 MIDI channels available to choose from on the CA piano.

In addition to channel-to-channel connection, it is possible to receive multiple channels. With MIDI instruments equipped with **multi-timbral capabilities**, you can receive multiple parts on multiple channels each played with a different sound simultaneously. For example, a MIDI instrument might receive the melody on channel 1, the chords on 2, the bass on 3, and assign a different instrument to each channel. Piano for channel 1, strings for 2, electric bass for 3. In this way, the CA piano can play up to 16 different parts each with a different sound.

Here's a diagram (next page) to summarize the MIDI connections we have discussed.

Instrument #1, which is transmitting the piano part on channel 1 (Ch 1), the string part on Ch 2 and the bass part on Ch 3, is connected to Instrument #2. Instrument #3 is connected to MIDI Thru on instrument #2. The receive channel is set to 1 for Instrument #2 and multi-timbral mode is turned off. On instrument #3 multi-timbral mode is on.



Instrument #2 recognizes only the piano part received from Instrument #1. Instrument #3 receives all the parts on the three channels being passed through Instrument #2 because Instrument #3's multi-timbral mode capability is activated.

We have provided this brief look at MIDI to help you understand the CA piano's MIDI capabilities.

While it is beyond the scope of this manual to explain the entire world of MIDI we do encourage you to visit your local music store or contact a music publisher for a listing of available books on MIDI applications to learn more.

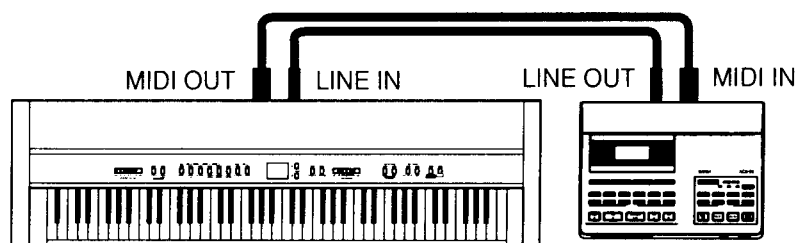
Let's explore some MIDI applications using Kawai's ACR-20.

USING THE CA PIANO AS CONTROLLER

First let's play the ACR-20's built in sounds using the CA piano's keyboard.

MIDI CONNECTION

First, connect the CA piano's MIDI OUT jack to the ACR-20's MIDI IN jack with a MIDI cable.



Next you must match the MIDI channel. The transmitting channel of the CA piano and receiving channel of the ACR-20 must be the same. Because the ACR-20 always has its multi-timbral mode on you do not have to set the ACR-20's receive channel. In multi-timbral mode the ACR-20 automatically receives on all 16 MIDI channels. On the ACR-20 each track is set to the corresponding MIDI channel, Track 1= Ch. 1, Track 2= Ch. 2 and so on.

CHANGING TRANSMITTING CHANNEL

To change the transmit channel on the CA piano, press the **E. PIANO** button while holding down the **TOUCH** and **TRANPOSE** buttons. The LED display will indicate the channel number that is currently selected. **Change the channel by using the VALUE buttons. You can select from 1 to 16.**

Press any **SOUND SELECT** button to go back to the normal mode.

AUDIO CONNECTION

The ACR-20 is not equipped with an amplifier or speakers. You can connect the ACR-20 directly to CA piano through the **LINE IN** jacks or to an external sound system.

Connect the LINE IN jacks of the CA piano and the LINE OUT jacks of the ACR-20 with a pair of audio cables (see the illustration above). Now you will be able to hear the CA piano's sound and the ACR-20's sound together through the CA's speakers. Use the volume knob of the ACR-20 to balance its volume with the CA piano.

Transmitting
Channel 1



Now You're ready play.

Play the CA piano's keyboard. You should hear both instruments as you play. What is happening is that the CA piano is transmitting MIDI information, what note you played, how hard (loud) you played it, and so on to the ACR-20. The ACR-20 reproduces sound based on this information using its own sound module.

PROGRAM CHANGE

Press a SOUND SELECT button on the CA. You will hear the ACR-20 and the CA piano each play a different sound. Pressing a SOUND SELECT button lets the CA piano transmit a “**program change**” number. A program change is the type of MIDI command that tells the receiving instrument what sound or instrument to play your notes with.

Actual program change information is just a number, from 1 to 128, not an instrument name. You select the desired instrument with a specific number. Not all MIDI instruments assign the same sound to the same program change number. MIDI instruments that conform to the **General MIDI** (GM) standard however “DO” assign the same sound to the same program change number. For example program change #1 will always be an acoustic piano sound on a “GM” compatible synth, and program change #33 will always be an acoustic bass sound. Because of this, when connecting two “GM” instruments together, selecting the right sound is not a problem. The CA piano is not General MIDI instrument and it's internal sounds are not assigned the same as the ACR-20. This is why the ACR-20 does not play a String sound when you press the STRINGS button on the CA piano (you will hear Harpsichord instead). You will see below the Program change number/sound assignment mapping for the two instruments. The CA piano can have different mappings depending on the multi-timbral mode (explained later in this chapter). Please see the page 61 in the Reference section for more detail.

Program Change #	Preset Sound	
	CA550	ACR20 (General MIDI)
1	Piano 1	Grand Piano
2	Piano 2	Bright Piano
3	E. Piano	Electric Grand
4	Church Organ	Honky Tonk Piano
5	Harpsichord	Electric Piano 1
6	Vibraphone	Electric Piano 2
7	Strings	Harpsichord
8	Choir	Clavi

In order for the ACR-20 to play the sound you want, you need to know what program change number to transmit to it. Then press the appropriate SOUND SELECT button on the CA piano to transmit the correct program change to the ACR-20. For example, press the vibraphone button (program change #6) on the CA piano if you want the ACR-20 to play with the Electric Piano 2 sound. Please read the ACR-20's manual for a list of its program change number/sound assignments. Then read **"8. Program Change Number"** in the Reference section of this manual for the procedure to send a desired program change number from the CA piano.

That is how to layer the CA piano's sound with a desired sound from the ACR-20.

LOCAL CONTROL

You may want to play and only hear the ACR-20's sound, without the CA piano's sound. You can turn off the CA piano's sound using a function called **"local control"**.

Local control determines whether or not the CA piano will produce a sound when you play its own keyboard. When local control is on, the CA piano produces sound as you play the keys. When off, the piano will not produce a sound when you play the keys. The CA piano's keyboard will however, continue to transmit MIDI information to an external MIDI instrument.

Press the HARPSICHORD button while holding down the TOUCH and TRANSPOSE button. The LED display will read "on", which means the piano is currently set to local control on. **To turn it off, use the VALUE button.**

Press any SOUND SELECT button to go back to the normal mode.

Local Control
ON



Local Control
OFF

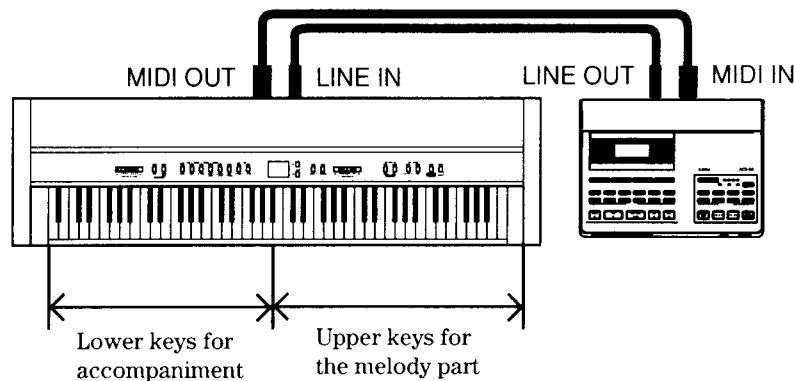


Play the keyboard and you will hear only the sound from the ACR-20. To change the sound from the CA piano, select the desired number as explained in the Reference section and send it from the CA piano to the ACR-20.

You can manually change preset sounds directly on the ACR-20. In this case, you may want to set the CA piano so that it does not transmit program changes. Remember the ACR-20 will respond to any program changes transmitted from the CA piano when you press a SOUND SELECT button. Read “4. Program Change On/Off” in the Reference Section, page 41 to learn how to prevent the CA piano from transmitting program changes.

USING THE ACR-20 AS ACCOMPANIMENT MODULE

Thanks to the automatic accompaniment styles built into the ACR-20, you can enjoy playing the CA piano with rhythms and accompaniments. When using the ACR-20 as accompaniment module, it will split the note information it receives from the CA piano into two zones, lower keys and upper keys, as if there were a split point on the CA piano. Lower keys (below the split point) on the CA's keyboard are used to change the chords depending on which notes you play. Upper keys (above the split point) on the keyboard can be played normally, to play a melody, for example.



Please read the ACR-20's manual for more information.

RECORDING WITH THE ACR-20

The ACR-20's recorder is more powerful than that of the CA piano. The ACR-20 lets you record up to 16 tracks, with 226 sounds to choose from as well as drums and percussion. With the ACR-20 you can compose a complete orchestral piece.

Connecting the two instruments for recording is the same as previously explained. Connect the MIDI OUT of the CA piano and the MIDI IN of the ACR-20 with a MIDI cable. Also connect the LINE IN jacks of the CA piano and the LINE OUT jacks of the ACR-20 with a pair of audio cables. You will use the CA piano as controller and the ACR-20 as recorder. You may turn local control and program change off.

Operation,

1. **Select a track to record and choose a preset sound for that track (part) on the ACR-20.**
2. **Set the CA piano's transmit channel to match the channel of the track selected to record on the ACR-20.**
3. **Start recording. Refer to the ACR-20 for instructions.**
4. **Repeat the same procedure and record as many different tracks (parts) as you like.** Remember you must change the transmit channel of the CA piano to match the channel of the track you want to record on the ACR-20.

This is just a brief outline of the multi-track recording process used with the ACR-20. For step-by-step operation, please refer to the ACR-20's manual.

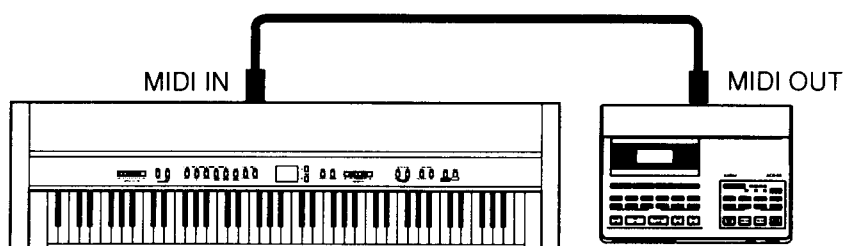
USING THE CA PIANO AS A MULTI-TIMBRAL SOUND MODULE

The CA piano can be also used as a 16-part multi-timbral sound module, although the number of built-in sounds is limited, compared with the ACR-20 or DRP-10.

Your CA piano is capable of playing back for example, a four part song with two piano parts, a string part, and a choir part all sent from an external MIDI sequencer or a personal computer. You can also play the CA piano along with a recorded song.

To set the CA piano to receive MIDI as a multi-timbral instrument it must be connected with an external MIDI instrument, which is, for our purposes in this manual, the ACR-20 again.

Connect the CA piano's MIDI IN jack and the ACR-20's MIDI OUT jack with a MIDI cable. Please note that the MIDI information is now being transmitted the opposite of our earlier setup. The CA piano is now receiving MIDI data from the ACR-20.



MIDI CHANNEL

The next step is to match your MIDI channels. This time however, it is a little different from our earlier setup. When transmitting MIDI data from the CA piano, you must select a MIDI channel to transmit on and select a track on the ACR-20 that is set to the same channel. When receiving MIDI data on the CA piano in multi-timbral mode, it is not necessary to specify a MIDI channel to use because the CA piano can receive data on multiple MIDI channels at once. You do have to be careful to match MIDI channels between each part. A MIDI channel can only have one sound assigned to it at a time. You must set the MIDI channel for each part on both the transmitting (ACR-20) and the receiving (CA piano) MIDI devices. For example, channel 1 for piano, ch 2 for strings, ch 3 for choir, etc.

The CA piano provides three different setups for you to easily set up channelization and program change numbers when using the piano as sound module. They are **Multi-timbral 1**, **Multi-timbral 2** and **Multi-timbral Off**.

MULTI-TIMBRAL MODE

Multi-timbral 1 is a ready-to-use setup for 8-channel multi-timbral operation. The eight channels are assigned to channels 1-8 and each channel is assigned to one of the CA piano's eight preset sounds. See the chart in page 61. This setup is completely preset and you cannot change the channel number or program change number. This is the best setup for a song designed especially for the CA piano.

Multi-timbral 2 is a 16-channel setup that is more flexible. You can mute the channels separately. Each channel recognizes the program change numbers as listed in page 61.

Multi-timbral Off turns off multi-timbral capability. If you would like to have the CA piano receive MIDI data on a single channel and ignore all data on the other channels set multi-timbral to “Off”. Remember, if you want the CA piano to receive MIDI information from an external device, you must match the receiving channel with the transmitting channel. Program change numbers are recognized as listed in page 61.

To demonstrate the multi-timbral capability of the CA piano, let's choose Multi-timbral 2.

Press the VIBRAPHONE button while holding down the TOUCH and TRANSPOSE button. The LED display will read “OFF”, which means Multi-timbral Off is currently selected. **Use the VALUE button to select Multi-timbral 2. The display will read “On2”.**

After choosing the multi-timbral setting, press any SOUND SELECT button to go back to the normal mode.



Let's see how this works using the ACR-20. Play one of the songs that came on the floppy disk included with the ACR-20, try the song named “VIBE”. When you play this song, you will hear a vibraphone part in addition to a few piano parts.

The CA piano's multi-timbral capability is limited compared to a General MIDI instrument and, if you own a GM sound module and sequencer like the ACR-20 or DRP-10, you'll probably want to use it as your multi-timbral module instead of the CA piano. If you have a hardware sequencer or personal computer but do not own another sound module, you can still enjoy sixteen-part multi-timbral capability with only the CA piano.

MIDI may seem a little difficult to work with at first, but once mastered it offers many new and exciting ways to enjoy music.

While this manual avoids going into too much detail regarding the technical aspects of MIDI such as “system exclusive data”, for those who are more familiar with MIDI or want to be, this manual provides technical MIDI information and a MIDI Implementation Chart, on page 62 and 63.



4. PLAYING WITH CONCERT MAGIC

The great German composer Johann Sebastian Bach once said, "Playing the keyboard is simple. Just strike right keys at the right time." Many people wish it were that simple. The reality is very different of course. However, there is a way to make playing the keyboard very simple. You don't even have to strike right keys thanks to Concert Magic.

With CONCERT MAGIC, absolutely anyone can sit at the CA piano and make real music... even if you've never taken a piano lesson in your life. To enjoy performing by yourself, you have only to select your favorite piece from 88 preprogrammed songs and tap any of the 88 keys with a steady rhythm and tempo. CONCERT MAGIC will provide the correct melody and accompaniment notes, regardless of which keys you press. Anybody, young or old, can enjoy CONCERT MAGIC from the moment they sit down at the CA piano. Now let's see how CONCERT MAGIC works.

SELECTING A SONG

The 88 Concert Magic songs are assigned to each of the 88 piano keys, classified in eight groups by song category such as Children's Songs, American Classics, Christmas Songs.

All the song titles are listed in the Song Card provided with the piano. Please note that the CA550 incorporates the songs in Bank A. To make it easier to find which song is assigned to which key, there is a key strip that can be placed between the end of black keys and the front panel. The key strip indicates song categories, and note names.



To select a song, press the key to which your desired song is assigned while holding down the CONCERT MAGIC button. The LED display gives the song number.

LISTENING TO THE SONG

If you have selected a song you are familiar with, you may want to play by yourself right away. However you may want to listen to the song first before playing it.



To listen, press the START/STOP button. The CA piano will start playing back the selected song. You can adjust the speed or tempo of the song by using the VALUE buttons while holding down the TEMPO button.

If you want to listen to a different song, repeat the same procedure to select a song.

When you are finished listening to the song, **press the START/STOP button again to stop.**

PERFORMING A SONG

Now you're ready to play yourself.

Tap out the rhythm of the selected song on any one of the 88 black or white keys on your piano keyboard. As you tap harder, the notes will get louder; as you tap softer, the notes will get quieter. As you tap faster, the notes speed up; as you tap slower, they will slow down correspondingly, just like regular piano playing.

Isn't it fun? You can sound like you've been playing for years just by pressing one key with one finger.

Concert Magic is a perfect method for small children to learn music, especially to develop a sense of rhythm. For older people who may think it is too late to learn the keyboard, Concert Magic is a good first step for them to begin with. With Concert Magic, your CA piano can be enjoyed by anyone in the family, even those who have never touched a musical instrument in their life.

CONCERT MAGIC SONG ARRANGEMENT TYPES

After playing for a while with Concert Magic you may think that it's too easy and there is very little to learn.

While it is true that some of the songs are very easy to play, even for beginners, there are also some which will challenge you and require some practice to play beautifully. Each of the 88 Concert Magic songs falls into one of three different categories depending on the skill level required to perform them.

EASY BEAT

These are the easiest songs to play. To perform them, simply tap out a constant steady beat on any key on your piano keyboard.

Look at the following example, “Für Elise”. Press the key with a steady sixteenth note rhythm.

Key on x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

MELODY PLAY

These songs are also quite easy to play, especially if they are familiar to you. To perform them, tap out the rhythm of the melody on any one of the keys on your piano keyboard. Singing along as you tap the rhythm can be helpful.

Key on x x x x x x x x x x x x x x

Play “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” for example. Follow the melody’s rhythm as shown.

When performing fast songs with Concert Magic, it is sometimes easier to tap two different keys with two fingers alternating. This allows you to play twice as fast as you can using only one finger on one key.

SKILLFUL

These songs range in difficulty from moderately difficult to difficult. To perform them, tap out the rhythm of both the melody and the accompaniment notes on any of the keys on your piano keyboard, like “Waltz of The Flowers” shown below.



It may take some practice to get them just right. A good way to learn these songs is to listen to them first, and then try to tap out the rhythms that you hear.

On the Song Card, the arrangement type is marked next to each song title as “EB” for Easy Beat, “MP” for Melody Play and “SK” for Skillful.

CA550 Digital Piano

Reference Section

Operation by the Panel Components

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This section describes the operation of the panel components—buttons, sliders, and jacks. If you are familiar with playing the digital piano, reading this section first may help you understand the CA piano faster. In this section you can look into the particular functions for detailed information and operation instead of reading through the manual from the beginning.

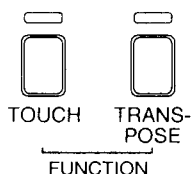
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MIDI Information

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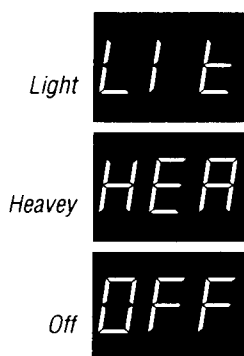
This section provides technical information on MIDI—exclusive data structure and tables such as Program Change Number Assignment and Implementation.

1. FUNCTION BUTTONS



SELECTING THE TOUCH SENSITIVITY (TOUCH BUTTON)

The TOUCH button is used to select a different touch sensitivity of the keyboard from the standard touch of an acoustic piano. You can change the sensitivity to one of three different settings: LIGHT, HEAVY and OFF.



LIGHT: For those still developing finger strength. A louder volume is produced even when playing with a soft touch.

HEAVY: Perfect for those with strong fingers. Requires a heavier touch to produce a loud volume.

OFF: A constant volume is produced regardless of how hard the keys are struck. This setting is suitable for sounds that have a fixed dynamic range such as Organ and Harpsichord.

❑ OPERATION

To change from the standard touch press the TOUCH button. The LED indicator above the TOUCH button will be turned on to indicate that the piano is now using a different touch setting.

Use the VALUE buttons to change the type of touch while the TOUCH button is held down.

Press the TOUCH button again to get back to the standard touch setting.

Touch selection is global for all the preset tones. You cannot have an individual setting for each tone.

Once the power is turned off, the setting will be reset to the standard setting.

◆ NOTE

LIGHT and HEAVY do not represent the physical weight of the keys. These are settings that affect the sensitivity of the keys, which determines the volume level in response to the key movement.

TRANSPOSING THE PIANO (TRANSPOSE BUTTON)

Use the TRANSPOSE button to raise or lower the piano's key in half steps. This is especially useful when you have learned a song in one key and have to play it in another key. The transpose feature allows you to play the song in the original key, but hear it in another key.

❑ OPERATION

Value:
-5



-5, for example, represents 5 half notes lower than the standard.

To switch from the standard key to the desired key, press the TRANSPOSE button. The LED above the TRANSPOSE button will be turned on to indicate that the piano is now transposed.

The LED display gives the number that represents how many half steps up or down from the standard key.

Use the VALUE buttons to change the key while the TRANSPOSE button is held down. "0" indicates the standard key. The piano can be transposed up to 6 half steps higher or 5 half steps lower.

Press the TRANSPOSE button again to return to the standard key.

The transpose value will be reset to "0" after turning the power off.

OTHER FUNCTIONS (TOUCH & TRANSPOSE BUTTON)

There are eight other functions that control tuning, system, and MIDI functions. They are Tuning, Temperament, MIDI Transmit and Receive Channel, Transmit Program Change On/Off, Local On/Off, Multi-timbral Mode, Channel Mute, and Program Change Number.

❑ COMMON OPERATION

These functions are selected by pressing one of the SOUND SELECT buttons while holding down both the TOUCH and the TRANSPOSE buttons. Each SOUND SELECT button is assigned to the functions listed below.

Tuning	PIANO 1
Temperament	PIANO 2
MIDI Transmit and Receive Channel	E. PIANO
Transmit Program Change On/Off	CHURCH ORGAN
Local Control On/Off	HARPSICHORD
Multi-Timbral Mode	VIBRAPHONE
Channel Mute	STRINGS
Program Change Number	CHOIR

The LED indicator above the button will flash to show which function is selected.

To exit the function, press any of the **SOUND SELECT** buttons or the **TOUCH** or the **TRANPOSE** buttons.

Once the power is turned off, the settings will be reset to the factory preset value.

1. TUNING

Tuning allows you to adjust the piano's pitch. You may need to adjust the tuning when you play with other instruments.

□ OPERATION

Pitch:
440.0 Hz



Press the **PIANO 1** button while holding down the **TOUCH** and the **TRANPOSE** buttons to control the tuning.

The LED display gives a number that represents the pitch for “A” in Hz (Hertz). The range of adjustment is from 427.0 to 453.0 Hz (displayed as 27.0–53.0). The factory preset value is set to the modern standard A = 440.0 Hz (displayed as 40.0).

Use **VALUE** buttons to raise or lower the pitch while in tuning mode.

To exit, press any of the **SOUND SELECT** buttons or the **TOUCH** or the **TRANPOSE** buttons.

2. TEMPERAMENT

The CA piano offers not only equal temperament (the modern standard) but also immediate access to temperaments popular during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. It should be interesting and educational to try some of the different temperaments, although the equal temperament is dominant today.

□ OPERATION

Temperament
(Equal)



Press **PIANO 2** button while holding down the **TOUCH** and the **TRANPOSE** to change the temperament. The LED display shows the symbol that indicates which type of temperament is in use.

To switch from one temperament to another, use the **VALUE** buttons.

After you have selected the desired temperament, please read the following section on selecting a key signature for the temperament before continuing.

Key in D



Key in A#



KEY SIGNATURE OF TEMPERAMENT

Limitless modulation of the key became available only after the invention of Equal temperament. When we use a temperament other than Equal temperament, we must carefully choose the key signature to play in.

To select the key signature of the temperament, simply press one of the 88 piano keys. The note name of the key you pressed will be shown in the display and it will be chosen as the key of the temperament.

For example, if the song you are going to play is written in D major, press any “D” key to set the temperament key.

Please note that changing the key of the temperament will only change the “balance” of the tuning, the pitch of the keyboard remains unchanged. Use the TUNING or TRANSPOSE control to change the pitch of the whole keyboard.

To exit, press any of the SOUND SELECT buttons or the TOUCH or the TRANSPOSE buttons.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF TEMPERAMENTS

EQUAL TEMPERAMENT

This is the most popular piano temperament, it divides the scale into twelve equal semitones. This produces the same chordal intervals in all twelve keys, and has the advantage of limitless modulation of the key. However the tonality of each key becomes less characteristic and no chord is in pure consonance.

Offset equal temperament is a practical variation of the original equal temperament which was invented on mathematical basis. Hearing ability of a human is uneven and is not as accurate with high frequency and low frequency as with middle range. The offset temperament is designed to compensate human ability so the sound will be naturally heard to the ears. This temperament is chosen to be the factory preset.

MERSENNE PURE TEMPERAMENT

This temperament, which eliminates dissonances for thirds and fifths is still popular for choral music because of its perfect harmony.

You need to be aware what key you are playing in with this temperament. Any key modulation will result in dissonances. When you play music in a particular key, you need to match the key of the temperament as well.

Equal



Offset Equal



Mersenne



Pythagorean



PYTHAGOREAN TEMPERAMENT

This temperament, which uses mathematical ratios to eliminate dissonance for fifths, is very limited for use with chords, but it produces very characteristic melodic lines.

Meantone



MEANTONE TEMPERAMENT

This temperament, which uses a mean between a major and minor whole tone to eliminate dissonance for thirds, was devised to eliminate the lack of consonances experienced with certain fifths for the Mersenne pure temperament. It produces chords that are more beautiful than those with the equal temperament.

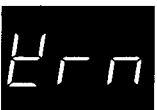
Werckmeister



WERCKMEISTER III TEMPERAMENT, KIRNBERGER III TEMPERAMENT

These two temperaments are placed in between Meantone and Pythagorean. For music with few accidentals, this temperament produces the beautiful chords of the mean tone, but as accidentals increase, the temperament produces the characteristic melodies of the Pythagorean temperament. It is used primarily for classical music written in the Baroque era to revive the original characteristics.

Kirnberger



3. MIDI TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE CHANNEL

This determines on which MIDI channel the CA piano will exchange MIDI information with an external MIDI instrument or a personal computer.

□ OPERATION

Channel 15



Press the E. PIANO button while holding down the TOUCH and the TRANSPOSE buttons, and the piano will show the channel number in the LED display. The default channel is 1.

Change the channel within the range of 1-16 using the VALUE buttons.

To exit, press any of the SOUND SELECT buttons or the TOUCH or the TRANSPOSE buttons.

4. TRANSMIT PROGRAM CHANGE ON/OFF

This determines whether or not the CA piano will transmit program change information when pressing the SOUND SELECT buttons. When this is turned on, pressing the SOUND SELECT buttons will send the program change numbers as assigned below.

PIANO 1	1
PIANO 2	2
E. PIANO	3
CHURCH ORGAN	4
HARPSICHORD	5
VIBRAPHONE	6
STRINGS	7
CHOIR	8

□ OPERATION

Transmit
ON



Transmit
OFF



Press the CHURCH ORGAN button while holding down the TOUCH and the TRANSPOSE buttons, and the LED display will show “on” or “off”. The initial value is on.

Toggle on and off using the VALUE buttons.

To exit, press any of the SOUND SELECT buttons or the TOUCH or the TRANSPOSE buttons.

5. LOCAL CONTROL ON/OFF

This determines whether the CA piano’s sound will be Played from the piano’s keyboard (“ON”) or only from an external MIDI instrument (“OFF”).

Even with local control “off” the piano’s keyboard will still transmit to an external MIDI instrument or personal computer.

□ OPERATION

Local Control
ON



Local Control
OFF



Press the HARPSICHORD button while holding down the TOUCH and the TRANSPOSE buttons, and the piano will show “on” or “off” in the LED display. The initial value is on.

Toggle on and off using the VALUE buttons.

To exit, press any of the SOUND SELECT buttons or the TOUCH or the TRANSPOSE buttons.

6. MULTI-TIMBRAL MODE

Multi-timbral mode allows the instrument to receive data on more than one MIDI channel simultaneously. In this mode, the CA piano can play different musical parts with different sounds for each part.

There are three modes with this function.

Multi Timbre
1 

Multi Timbre
2 

Multi Timbre
OFF 

Multi-Timbral 1 This is a ready-to-use multi-timbral setup. The MIDI channels, 1–8, are assigned with eight different sounds as described in page 61. You can enjoy 8-part multi-timbral capability without any complicated settings.

Multi-Timbral 2 This is a 16 part multi-timbral setup. In addition, you can turn individual MIDI channels on and off, and assign any program number to any channel you like.

Multi-Timbral Off This turns off the multi-timbral capability. Only one MIDI channel will be active and only the preset sound currently selected will be heard when a MIDI signal is received.

❑ OPERATION

Press the **VIBRAPHONE** button while holding down the **TOUCH** and the **TRANSPOSE** buttons, and the piano will show **OFF**, **ON1** or **ON 2** in the LED display. The initial value is off.

Select a desired mode using the **VALUE** buttons.

To exit, press any of the **SOUND SELECT** buttons or the **TOUCH** or the **TRANSPOSE** buttons.

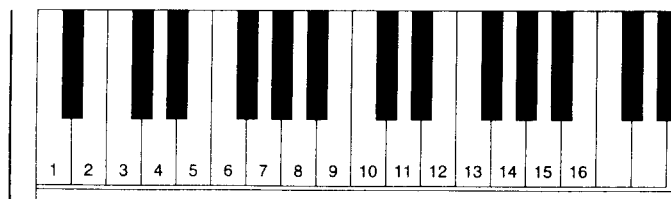
7. CHANNEL MUTE

This determines which MIDI channels are activated to receive when used with Multi-Timbral 2. You can activate or deactivate each of the 16 channels individually.

❑ OPERATION

Mute
OFF 

Press the **STRINGS** button while holding down the **TOUCH** and the **TRANSPOSE**, and the piano will show “on” or “off” in the LED display. The initial value is “on” for channel 1 and “off” for the other channels. To turn off the channel, use the **VALUE** keys to toggle on and off.



When you want to turn on and off the other channels, use the 16 leftmost white keys to select a desired channel. Then use the **VALUE** keys to turn them on and off.

To exit, press any of the **SOUND SELECT** buttons or the **TOUCH** or the **TRANSPOSE** buttons.

8. PROGRAM CHANGE NUMBER



This function allows the CA piano to transmit program change numbers beyond the 8 pre-defined numbers transmitted by the sound select buttons. Using this function, you can send any number from 1 to 128.

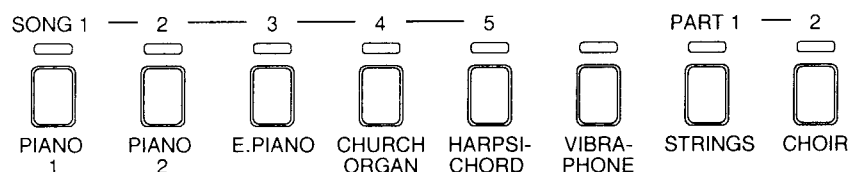
□ OPERATION

Press the **CHOIR** button while holding down the **TOUCH** and the **TRANSPOSE**, and the piano will show a number in the LED display which represents the program number. Use the **VALUE** buttons to set the desired number.

To send the program change number, press both **VALUE** buttons simultaneously.

To exit, press any of the **SOUND SELECT** buttons or the **TOUCH** or the **TRANSPOSE** buttons.

2. SOUND SELECT BUTTONS



SELECTING A SOUND

These buttons are used to select the desired instrument to play.

Press the appropriate button and the LED indicator above it will be turned on to indicate that it is selected.

DUAL

You can layer any two preset sounds (Dual).

Pressing two buttons simultaneously will activate the DUAL mode.

SELECTING A SONG OR A PART

The built in recorder has the capability to record and play back up to five different songs. Each song has two separate tracks (called “Parts”) that can be recorded or played back. The sound select buttons, except VIBRAPHONE, are also used for selecting a song and a part when using the recorder.

Select the desired SONG number or PART number by pressing the appropriate button while holding down REC or PLAY button.

SELECTING A FUNCTION

These buttons are used to select the functions that control the tuning system and MIDI configurations.

Use one of the eight buttons to select a desired function while holding down the TOUCH and TRANSPOSE button simultaneously.

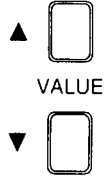
SELECTING A DEMO SONG

When listening to the demo songs, these buttons are used to select the different demo songs.

Use one of the eight buttons to select a desired preset sound to demonstrate after pressing the DEMO button.



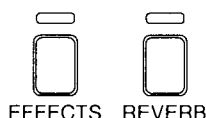
3. VALUE BUTTONS



CHANGING VALUE

These two buttons are used to change the value for certain functions. First select the function or option which you would like to change the value for by pressing the appropriate button(s), then use the VALUE buttons. “▲” button increases value and “▼” decreases .

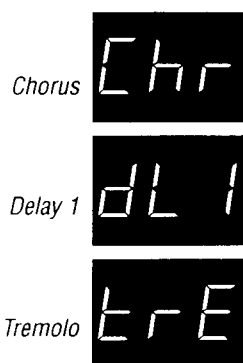
4. EFFECT BUTTONS



SELECTING AN EFFECT (EFFECTS BUTTON)

Use the EFFECTS button to add an effect to the sound. There are five digital effects; CHORUS, DELAY1–3, and a Tremolo effect that can be used to enhance the sound of the preset tone.

□ OPERATION



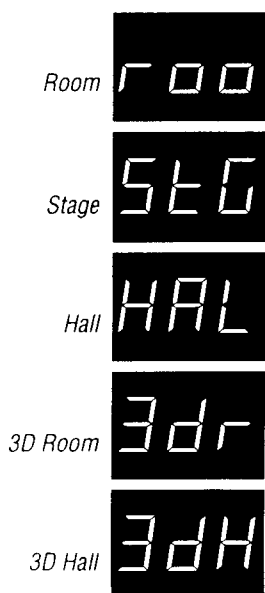
To add an effect to the sound, press the EFFECTS button. The LED indicator will be turned on and the LED display will show you which effect is currently selected.

To change the effect type, use the VALUE buttons while holding down the EFFECTS button.

REVERB (REVERB BUTTON)

Use REVERB button to add reverberation to the sound. There are five types of reverb built-in: ROOM, STAGE, HALL, 3D ROOM, and 3D HALL.

□ OPERATION



To add reverb to the sound, press the REVERB button. The LED indicator will be turned on and the LED will display which type of reverb is currently selected.

To change the reverb type, use the VALUE buttons while holding down the REVERB button.

The reverb setting is stored with the sound. When you select the same preset sound again your chosen effect will be recalled, until the instrument is turned off. Once the power is turned off, the effect will be reset to the factory setting.



5. DUAL BALANCE SLIDER



DUAL BALANCE

When playing in dual mode, this slider controls the volume balance of the two sounds.

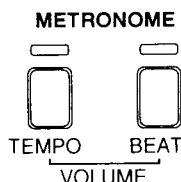
Move the slider to the right to increase the volume of the rightmost preset sound of the pair and decrease the volume of the leftmost preset sound. The balance changes in the opposite way when the slider is moved to the left.

PART VOLUME BALANCE FOR CONCERT MAGIC

When using with Concert Magic, the slider adjusts the volume balance of the melody part and the accompaniment.

As the slider is moved the right, the sound of the melody becomes louder and the accompaniment becomes softer. The balance changes in the opposite way when the slider is moved to the left.

6. METRONOME BUTTONS



CHANGING TEMPO (TEMPO BUTTON)

The TEMPO button is used to activate the metronome and control the tempo.

□ OPERATION



After pressing the TEMPO button, the metronome starts counting and turns on the LED indicator above it. The LED display gives tempo value in number of quarter note per minute (♩ = 120, for example).

To change tempo, use the VALUE buttons while holding down the TEMPO button and increase or decrease the value within the range of 20–300 (40–600 when in 6/8 rhythm). The initial value is 120.

Press the TEMPO button again to stop the metronome.

CONTROLLING THE PLAYBACK SPEED FOR THE CONCERT MAGIC SONGS

The TEMPO button is also used to control the playback speed for the Concert Magic songs.

□ OPERATION

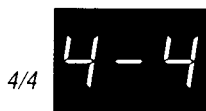
After selecting a Concert Magic song to play back, hold down the TEMPO button. Then the LED display shows tempo value. While holding down the TEMPO button, use the VALUE buttons to change the tempo.

You can control the tempo, either before playing back a song or while playing back.

CHANGING THE TIME SIGNATURE (BEAT BUTTON)

The BEAT button is used to activate the metronome and select your desired time signature. The CA piano has five settings to choose: 1/4, 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 and 6/8.

□ OPERATION



After pressing the BEAT button, the metronome starts counting and turns on the LED indicator above it. The LED display gives a time signature (4-4, for example).

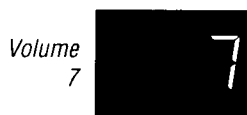
Use the VALUE buttons to select the desired time signature while holding the BEAT button.

Press the BEAT button again to stop the metronome.

CHANGING THE METRONOME VOLUME (TEMPO & BEAT BUTTONS)

The volume of the metronome can be adjusted to any level you like.

□ OPERATION



Press the TEMPO and BEAT buttons simultaneously. The LED displays the volume level of the metronome in numbers from 1 (soft) to 10 (loud). The factory preset is 7.

To change the volume level, use the VALUE buttons while holding down the TEMPO and BEAT buttons.

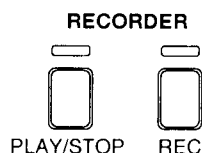
Press both buttons simultaneously again to stop the metronome

◆ NOTE

All the metronome settings will be reset to the factory preset value after turning off the power.



7. RECORDER BUTTONS



RECORDING (REC BUTTON)

The REC button is used for recording.

❑ OPERATION

Press the REC button to enable the CA piano to record. The LED indicator above the button starts flashing to tell you that the piano is ready to record.

Begin playing some music on the keyboard. The CA piano automatically begins recording on the first note you play.

When you are finished recording, press the REC button again. The piano will stop recording and save your song to memory.

Saving to memory may take a few seconds and during this time the piano will not perform any other operations.

You can start recording by pressing the PLAY/STOP button instead of pressing a key. In this way, you can insert a blank bar at the beginning of the song.

RECORDING ANOTHER SONG

The CA550 can record and store up to five songs.

❑ OPERATION

Press the SOUND SELECT button labeled with the desired song number (1–5) while holding down the REC button. The LED indicator for the song will also begin flashing. Then start recording by following the regular recording procedure.

RECORDING A SECOND PART

You can record a second part in the second track (part) of the same song.

❑ OPERATION

Press the SOUND SELECT button labeled with the desired part number while holding down the REC button. The LED indicator for the part will begin flashing. Then start recording by following the regular recording procedure.

STATUS OF SONG AND PART

Some of the LED indicators will be turned on or will flash while the REC button is held down. The LED indicates the status of the song and the part.

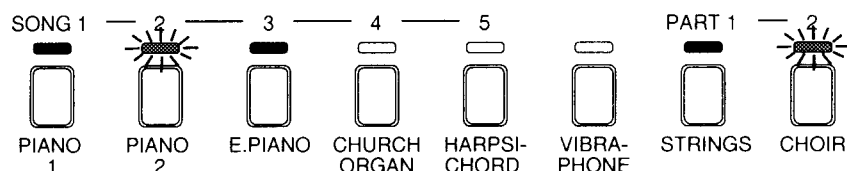
An LED that is on indicates that the song or part have already been recorded.

A flashing LED indicates that the song or part is selected for recording.

An LED that is off indicates a song or part that has nothing recorded on it.

EXAMPLE:

The LED indicator shows the status while the REC button is held down.



Song 1, 2 and 3 have been recorded. (LED stays on.)

Song 4 and 5 are empty. (LED is off.)

Song 2 is selected to record. (LED is flashing.)

Part 1 of Song 2 has been recorded. (LED stays on.)

Part 2 of Song 2 is selected to record. (LED is flashing.)

RECORDING THE SECOND PART WHILE LISTENING TO THE FIRST PART

While recording the second part, you can listen to the first part.

❑ OPERATION

Select the desired song, set the previously recorded track to play back and enable the empty track to record as illustrated above. Then press the REC button to enable the piano to record.

If you want to start recording the new part from the beginning of the song, just play the keyboard. You will hear the first part playing back while you record the new part.

If you would like to play back the first part and then start recording the second part from a certain point later in the song, instead of playing the keyboard press the PLAY/STOP button to start playback of the first part and then begin recording the second part from any point you like.

◆ NOTE

Recording a new part will completely erase data recorded previously in the same part in the same song.

INFORMATION TO RECORD

The recorder remembers all the notes you play, usage of the pedals and the sound selection.

If you record in a transposed key, the song will be played back in the same key you heard when recording, not in the key that you played with the keyboard.

MEMORY CAPACITY

The total memory capacity of the recorder is approximately 5000 notes. When the memory becomes full, the recorder will automatically stop at that moment. The data recorded before the interruption will be retained. All song data will be saved even after turning off the power.

PLAYING BACK A SONG (PLAY/STOP BUTTON)

The PLAY/STOP button is used to start and stop play back of the recorded songs.

□ OPERATION

Press the PLAY/STOP button and the recorded song will start playing. Press the PLAY/STOP button again to stop playback.

To select a specific song and part you would like to play back, hold down the PLAY/STOP button and use the SOUND SELECT buttons.

An LED that is on indicates a song or part that has song data to play back. A flashing LED indicates that this song is selected to play back. An LED that is off indicates this song or part have nothing to play back.

USING THE PLAY BUTTON TO START RECORDING

The PLAY/STOP button can also be used to start recording. In this way, you can insert a blank bar at the beginning of the song.

□ OPERATION

Press the REC button to enable the piano to record first, then press the PLAY/STOP button. On pressing the PLAY/STOP button, the CA piano starts recording regardless of whether you press a key or not.

ERASING A SONG

This function allows you to erase any song you do not want to listen to.

□ OPERATION

While holding down both the **REC** and **PLAY/STOP** button, press the **SOUND SELECT** button labeled with the song number you wish to erase. Releasing the buttons will erase the desired song.

ERASING ALL THE SONGS

To erase all the songs at once, first turn off the power then turn it back on again while holding down both the **REC** and **PLAY/STOP** buttons.



8. CONCERT MAGIC BUTTON



Thanks to CONCERT MAGIC, absolutely anyone can sit at the CA550 and make real music... even if you've never taken a piano lesson in your life. To enjoy performing by yourself, you have only to select your favorite piece from 88 preprogrammed songs and tap any key with a steady rhythm and tempo. CONCERT MAGIC will provide the correct melody and accompaniment notes, regardless of which keys you press.

SELECTING A CONCERT MAGIC SONG

88 Concert Magic songs are assigned to each of the 88 piano keys, classified in eight groups by song category such as Children's Songs, American Classics, Christmas Songs.

□ OPERATION

Song number
5



To select a song, press the key to which your desired song is assigned while holding down the CONCERT MAGIC button. The LED display gives the song number.

All the song titles are listed in the Song Card provided with the piano. To make it easier to find which song is assigned to which key, there is also a key strip that indicates song categories, and note names.

LISTENING TO THE SELECTED SONG



To listen to a Concert Magic song, first follow the song selection procedure then press the **PLAY/STOP** button.

Adjust the speed or tempo of the song by using the **VALUE** buttons while holding down the **TEMPO** button.

The LED display will not display the tempo value when used with Concert Magic.

To stop play back of the song press the **PLAY/STOP** button again.

To restart the currently selected song from the beginning, you must reselect the song by repeating the song selection procedure.

LISTENING TO ALL THE CONCERT MAGIC SONGS

Press the **CONCERT MAGIC** button and then press the **PLAY/STOP** button without selecting a song. The CA piano will play back all the preset songs from one to another.

PERFORMING THE SELECTED SONG

After following the song selection procedure, tap out the rhythm of the selected song on any one of the 88 black or white keys on your piano keyboard.

As you tap harder, the notes will get louder; as you tap softer, the notes will get quieter. As you tap faster, the notes speed up; as you tap slower, they will slow down correspondingly.

When performing fast songs on Concert Magic, it is sometimes easier to tap two different keys with two fingers alternating. This allows you to play twice as fast as you can using only one finger on one key.

Adjust the relative volume of the melody notes and accompaniment notes with the **DUAL BALANCE** slider.

CONCERT MAGIC SONG ARRANGEMENT TYPES

Each of the 88 Concert Magic songs is arranged in one of three types.

EASY BEAT

These are the easiest songs to play. To perform them, simply tap out a constant steady beat on any key on your piano keyboard.

MELODY PLAY

These songs are also quite easy to play, especially if they are familiar to you. To perform them, tap out the rhythm of the melody on any one of the keys on your piano keyboard. Singing along as you tap the rhythm can be helpful.

SKILLFUL

These songs range in difficulty from moderately difficult to difficult. To perform them, tap out the rhythm of both the melody and the accompaniment notes on any of the keys on your piano keyboard.

It may require some practice to successfully play these selections. Even skilled players will enjoy the challenge of the skillful pieces. Try listening to these songs first, and then try to tap out the rhythms that you hear.

9. DEMO BUTTON



The CA piano has eight demo songs built in. Each demo song presents a brief musical piece to introduce the different preset instruments. The 88 Concert Magic songs can be demonstrated as well.

PRESET SOUND DEMO

To listen to all the demos, simply press the **DEMO** button. The CA piano will start the demo.

Eight musical pieces will be played back in order until the **DEMO** button is pressed again to stop.

To select a specific demo, press the desired **SOUND SELECT** button while the demo is playing.

CONCERT MAGIC SONG DEMO

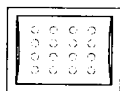
To listen to the Concert Magic songs as a demo, press the piano key to which the desired song is assigned while holding down the **DEMO** button.

The CA piano will play back the selected song and, then play the rest of songs in the same song category one after another.

To stop the demo, press the **DEMO** button again.

To select the songs in different categories, select a song from the desired category.

10. POWER SWITCH



TURNING THE POWER ON

Press this button to turn on the power.
Pressing it again will turn off the power.

Pressing this button while holding down the REC and PLAY/STOP buttons will erase all the songs currently stored in memory..

11. VOLUME SLIDER



CONTROLLING OVERALL VOLUME

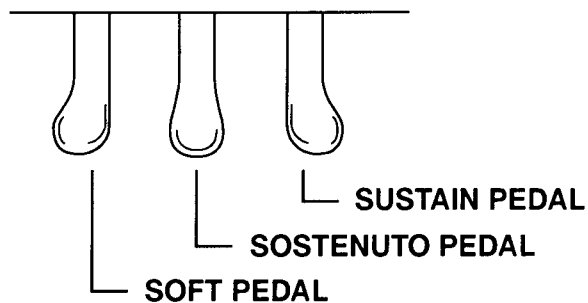
This slider controls the master volume level of the piano's sound.

Move this slider to the right to increase the volume and move to the left to decrease the volume.

This slider also controls the headphone's volume and the LINE output level of the piano's sound.



12. PEDALS



SUSTAIN PEDAL

Depressing this pedal sustains the sound even after removing your hands from the keyboard.

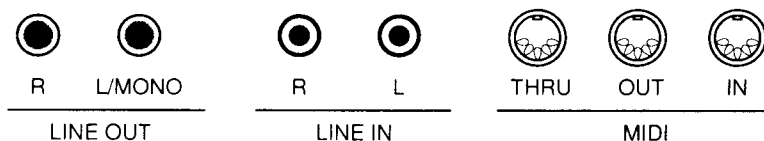
SOSTENUTO PEDAL

Depressing this pedal after pressing the keyboard and before releasing the keys, sustains the sound of only the keys just played.

SOFT PEDAL

Depressing this pedal softens the sound and also reduces its volume.

13. JACKS



MIDI JACKS

These jacks are used to connect external MIDI devices with the CA piano. There are three terminals: MIDI IN, MIDI OUT, and MIDI THRU.

LINE IN JACKS

These jacks are used to connect a pair of stereo outputs from other audio equipment or electronic instruments to the piano's speakers. The audio signal coming through these jacks bypasses the piano's volume control. To adjust the volume level, use the output control of the external instrument.

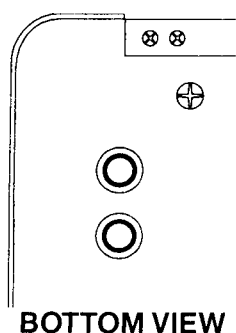
LINE OUT JACKS

These jacks provide stereo output of the piano's sound to amplifiers, tape recorders or similar equipment. The audio signal coming through the LINE IN jacks is also routed to these jacks. The piano's sound is mixed with the LINE IN signals. The CA piano's VOLUME slider can control the output level of its own sound while it does not control the LINE IN signal.

HEADPHONE JACKS

There are two jacks for headphones provided at the left end on the bottom of the piano.

You can hear the piano's sound as well as any audio signal that is coming through the LINE IN.





14. MIDI INFORMATION

Program Change Number Mapping

MODE: MULTITIMBRE OFF, MULTITIMBRE ON 1

Program #	Sound
1	Piano 1
2	Piano 2
3	E. Piano
4	Church Organ
5	Harpsichord
6	Vibraphone
7	Strings
8	Choir

MODE: MULTITIMBRE ON 2

Program #	Sound
1	Piano 1
2	Piano 2
3	Piano 1
4	Piano 1
5	E. Piano
6	E. Piano
7	Harpsichord
12	Vibraphone
17	Church Organ
20	Church Organ
49	Strings
53	Choir

MIDI EXCLUSIVE DATA FORMAT

1st byte	2nd byte	3rd byte	4th byte	5th byte	6th byte	7th byte	8th byte	9th byte	10th byte
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- 1 F0..... Start code
- 2 40..... Kawai's ID number
- 3 00 - 0F MIDI channel
- 4 10,30 Function code (30 when setting MULTI TIMBRE 2 ON/OFF)
- 5 04..... Indicates that the instrument is Electronic Piano
- 6 02..... Indicates that the piano is one of "CA" series
- 7 data 1
- 8 data 2 (See the table below.)
- 9 data 3
- 10 F7..... End code

data 1	data 2	data 3	Function
00	00	—	Multi Timbre Off
01	00	—	Multi Timbre 1 On
02	00	—	Multi Timbre 2 On
0D	00-05	—	00: Effect Off, 01: Chorus, 02: Delay1, 03: Delay2, 04: Delay3, 05: Tremolo
0E	00-05	—	00: Reverb Off, 01: Room, 02: Stage, 03: Hall, 04: 3D Room, 05: 3D Hall
14	00-7F	—	Dual balance
16	1F-60	—	Tune, 40: 440 Hz
17	00, 7F	—	00: Program Change Off, 7F: Program Change On
18	00-03	—	00: Light, 01: Normal, 02: Heavy, 03: Off
20	00-07	00-07	Dual, data 2: Right sound, data 3: Left sound
25	00-06	00-0B	data 2: Temperament, data 3: Key
26	00, 7F	00-0F	Multi Timbre 2, data 2: 00 (On), 7F (Off), data 3: channel

MIDI IMPLEMENTATION CHART

KAWAI DIGITAL PIANO MODEL: CA550

DATE: AUGUST 1, 1997

VERSION 1.0

Function		Transmit	Receive	Remarks
Basic Channel	Default	1	1	
	Changes	1 – 16	1 – 16	
Mode	Default	3	3	* The default for the OMNI mode is ON. Specifying MIDI channels automatically turns it OFF.
	Messages Altered	X *****	1, 3*	
Note Number		15 – 113**	0–127	
	True voice	*****	15 – 113	
Velocity	Note ON	○ 9nH v=1–127	○	
	Note OFF	X 9nH v=0	X	
After Touch	Key's	X	X	
	Ch's	X	X	
Pitch Bend		X	X	
Control Change	7	X	○	Volume
	11	X	○	Expression pedal
	64	○ (Right pedal)	○	Sustain pedal
	66	○ (Center pedal)	X	Sustenuato pedal
	67	○ (Left pedal)	○	Soft pedal
Program Change : True #		○ 0 – 127 *****	○***	*** See the Program Change Number Mapping in page 59.
System Exclusive		○	○	On/Off Selectable
Common	: Song Position	X	X	
	: Song Select	X	X	
	: Tune	X	X	
System Real Time	: Clock	X	X	
	: Commands	X	X	
Aux	: Local On/Off	X	○	
	: All Notes Off	X	○	
	: Active Sense	○	○	
	: Reset	X	X	
Notes		** The value depends on the Transpose setting.		

Mode 1: OMNI ON, POLY

Mode 2: OMNI ON, MONO

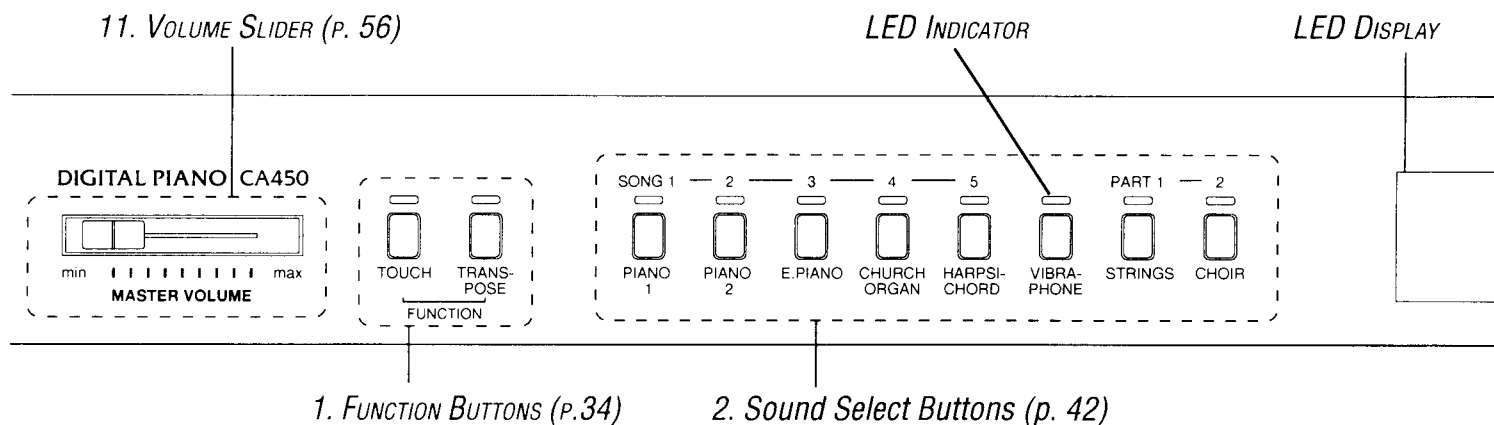
○: Yes

Mode 3: OMNI OFF, POLY

Mode 4: OMNI OFF, MONO

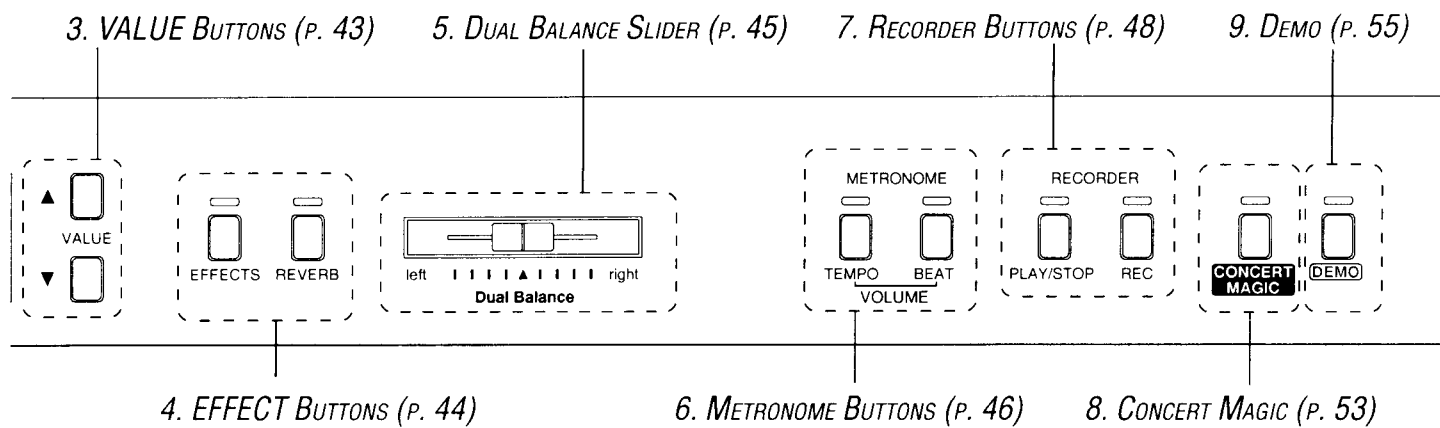
X: No

FRONT PANEL



SPECIFICATIONS

Keyboard	88 Wooden (AWA)
Polyphony	Maximum 64
Preset Tones	Piano 1, Piano 2, Electric Piano, Church Organ, Harpsichord, Vibraphone, Strings, Choir
Effects	Chorus, Delay (1-3), Tremolo Reverb (Room, Stage, Hall, 3D Room, 3D Hall)
Temperaments	Equal Temperament, Mersenne pure Temperament, Pythagorean Temperament, Meantone Temperament, Werckmeister III Temperament, Kirnberger III Temperament
Other Features	Concert Magic (88 Preset Songs) Volume, Dual, Dual Balance, Transpose, Tune, Touch Curve Selection (Light, Normal, Heavy, Off) MIDI (16 part multi-timbral capability)
Recorder	2 Tracks, 5 Songs The total memory capacity of the recorder is approximately 5000 notes.
Pedals	Sustain, Sostenuto, Soft
Jacks	Headphone (2), LINE IN (L, R), LINE OUT (L/MONO, R), MIDI (IN, OUT, THRU)
Output Power	20W x 2
Speakers	16 cm x 2
Power Consumption	46W
Finish	Dark Wood Grain
Dimensions (W x D x H)	139 x 50 x 86 cm, 55" x 20" x 34"
Weight (without bench)	55 kg, 122 lbs.



KAWAI